Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR TU US CY GR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS - NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S

ANKARA DISCUSSIONS

- 1. SUMMARY: ATHENS PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARYS ANKARA DISCUSSIONS DIVIDED PRIORITY BETWEEN THOSE NEWSPAPERS FEATURING SECRETARY'S OPTIMISM RE RESUMPTION INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND THOSE WHICH ALLEGED REJECTION BY GREECE AND CYPRUS OF "KISSINGER PLAN." NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORTED ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S PUBLIC PRODDING OF GOG TO PLEDGE INADMISSIBILITY OF BIZONAL SOLUTION AND TO REAFFIRM GREEK LEGAL RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN CYPRUS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN'S VISIT TO ATHENS TO BRIEF GOG OFFICIALS WAS REPORTED AS SEPARATE ITZM. END SUMMARY.
- 2. ATHENS NEWSPAPERS MARCH 12, DRAWING HEAVILY ON WIRE SERVICE MATERIAL, REPORTED PROMINENTLY SECRETARY'S AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FONMIN ESENBEL'S PRESS STATEMENTS AT CONCLUSION OF TALKS

IN ANKARA. CONSERVATIVE/CENTER NEWSPAPERS GENERALLY HIGHLIGHTED SECRETARYS REMARK THAT PROGRESS TOWARD RESUMPTION OF TALKS WAS MADE DURING HIS VISIT. LIBERAL/LEFT PRESS AND PRO-GOG VRADYNI STRESSED THAT GREECE AND CYPRUS GOVERNMENTS REJECTED SECRETARYS PROPOSALS WHICH WERE TO DETRIMENT OF GREEK NATIONAL INTERESTS. AKROPOLIS FEATURED EDITORIAL WHICH DOUBTED CHANCES OF SUCCESS OF SECRETARYS DISCUSSIONS ON CYPRUS UNLESS HE MANAGED TO TURN TURKS BACK TO RATIONAL COURSE. KATHIMERINI THUMPED THE DRUM OF PATRIOTISM DECLARING THAT GREECE'S INTERESTS REGARDING CYPRUS CANNOT BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY. TWO NEWSPAPERS CARRIED SPECULATION THAT RESUMED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WOULD FOCUS ON FEDERAL SOLUTION WITH FOUR CANTONS (ONE LARGE AND ONE SMALL FOR EACH SIDE) WITH TOTAL OF 24PC OF TERRITORY REMAINING WITH TURKISH CYPRIOTS.

- 3. PASOK'S ANDREAS PAPANDREOU ISSUED PRESS STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT GREEK/TURKISH BILATERAL TALKS UNDER SECRETARY'S SPONSORSHIP WOULD MEAN PARTITION OF CYPRUS AND "SLAUGHTER" OF GREEK INTERESTS. HE CALLED ON GOG TO PROCLAIM THAT IT WOULD NOT ALLOW DE FACTO SITUATION IN CYPRUS TO BECOME DE JURE. PAPANDREOU ADDED THAT TURKISH ARMY ON CYPRUS POSED POSSIBLE BLACKMAIL THREAT TO OCCUPY ALL OF ISLAND AND GOG SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR IT WOULD EXERCISE ITS LEGAL RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN DEFENSE OF GREEK CYPRIOTS IN SUCH EVENT.
- 4. BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON NEWSPAPERS REPORTED ARRIVAL HERE MARCH 12 OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN TO BRIEF GREEK LEADERS ON SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS IN ANKARA. ESTIA (RIGHTIST) DESCRIBED HARTMAN VISIT AS INDICATION CYPRUS QUESTION HAS REACHED CRITICAL TURNING POINT WHEREAS LEFTIST NEWSPAPERS VIEWED VISIT AS US EXERCISING PRESSURE ON GREECE. KUBISCH

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